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CANADIAN WAR MISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 18, 1918.

Sir Robert Falconer, C.M.G.,
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr. President:-

Mr. J.J. Gray, 34 Victoria Street, Toronto, has just called on me in the interests of Messrs J.A. Burgess and Hutchins, who have been working for over a year in Washington, in an attempt to perfect a Submarine Detector. Mr. Burgess has submitted his instrument to the British Embassy here and they have encouraged him to continue the experiments, suggesting, indeed, that he should go to Great Britain to do this. Mr. Burgess is a Canadian citizen, and this, together with the fact that the journey to Great Britain would be costly at the present time, has led him to the idea of carrying on further experimental work at Toronto.

I believe that Mr. Gray has already laid the matter before you, and I merely recite these facts in order that you will have the case before you as I see it here.

I have spoken to Commodore Gaunt, Navy Attache of the British Embassy, about Mr. Burgess. He tells me that the latter has not yet achieved any startling results but has shown considerable ingenuity in making use of the ideas of other men, which have been made public; there are possibilities for further development, and Commodore Gaunt believes that if Mr. Burgess could be permitted to use our laboratory facilities in Toronto without expense to the University, that it is desirable that this should be done.

Mr. Gray's visit to me this morning was with the object of securing from some member of the staff of the War Mission, a statement that Mr. Burgess was worthy of consideration, and in view of the remarks made by Commodore Gaunt, I feel that it would be quite proper for me to recommend this case for your favorable consideration.

Mr. Burgess is anxious to carry on some work both in the Bay and in the open lake, and Mr. Gray tells me that he is taking steps to secure permission to do this under proper protection.

I do not know whether you will be asked to

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support any application of this kind to the City or to the Dominion Government, but I mention it that you might know what these men have in their minds.

Should you arrive at a favorable decision on this matter, might I suggest that you write to Mr. J.A.Burgess, 409 Victor Building, Washington, offering him laboratory facilities at the University of Toronto.

I understand from Mr.Gray, that Mr. Burgess is unwilling to make an application himself, for reasons which are known to ~~Him~~ me, but that he would appreciate an invitation.

I might add that I know nothing of Mr.Gray's part in this matter; he did not tell me whether he had any financial interest in the scheme or whether he was acting purely from friendly or patriotic motives.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J.Watson Bain

JWB/BC.

March 26th, 1918

Professor J. Watson Bain,

Canadian War Mission,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Professor Bain:

I have to thank you for your letter of March 18. Mr Gray has been to see me several times about getting accommodation for Mr. Burgess. I think that now we shall be able to give him the opportunity to use a room in the Physics Building, though it will be necessary for us to report on his work to the head of the Imperial Munitions Board at Ottawa.

I hope that you are enjoying your work in Washington. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.